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Petrology was the branch of geology in which von Richthofen was first interested, and in his work on melaphyre he endeavored to systematize the science by adapting a classification of rock-species in a scheme similar to that used in systematic zoology. His complete classification was published in his "Natural System of Volcanic Rocks." The faults of his plan to separate similar rocks because of different ages reflect on the conceptions of geology in Germany at the time rather than on his appreciation of the facts.

Two other works deserve mention: his "Führer für Forschungsreisende" (1886), and his "Geognostische Beschreibung von Predazzo" (1860). In the former he emphasized the desirability of precision in geographical description; in the latter he maintained that the dolomites of the South Tyrol were coral reef deposits and that the associated beds were contemporary deep-sea or coral-sand deposits. He re-asserted his conclusions in 1874, after a study of living Malaysian reefs.

SIDNEY POWERS, at the request of R. A. DALY.

SIR HENRY ROSCOE (1833–1915)

Foreign Honorary Member in Class I, Section 3, 1890.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Enfield Roscoe died suddenly at his residence near London December 18th, 1915. Born January 7th, 1833, he had nearly completed his 83rd year. Up to within an hour of his death he was in good health and spirits. Then "heart failure" put an end to his interesting and useful life.

He was sent to University College, London, in 1848. Graham was then the professor of chemistry there, and he was succeeded by Williamson during Roscoe's student years. After receiving the degree of B. A. from the University of London he went to Heidelberg to continue his studies under Bunsen. Here he took part in the well-known researches on the chemical action of light. He continued work in this field for some years after receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Heidelberg in 1854, returning to Heidelberg in the summer vacations for this purpose. In Ostwald's reprint in his *Collection of Scientific Classics*, he says: "The Photochemical Re-

searches of Bunsen and Roscoe deserve the name of a classical investigation as they not only have gathered together all points known hitherto on the subject, but by their wide and thorough experiments have laid the foundation for all future work on the subject. It cannot be doubted that these researches not only serve as a classical, but as *the* classical type for all future works on the subject of physical chemistry.

Roscoe's residence in Heidelberg and his association with Bunsen and with Kirchhoff naturally led him to take special interest in spectrum analysis. He translated the book of Bunsen and Kirchhoff and also lectured extensively on this subject.

In 1857 he was elected professor of chemistry in Owens College, Manchester, succeeding Franklin. The College had then been in existence only six years, and it was in a low state financially. In his "Life and Experiences," published in 1906, he says: "The institution was at that time nearly in a state of collapse, and this fact had impressed itself even on the professors. I was standing one evening preparing myself for my lecture by smoking a cigar at the back gate of the building, when a tramp accosted me and asked me if this was the Manchester Night Asylum. I replied that it was not, but that if he would call again in six months he might find lodging there! That this opinion as to the future of the college was also generally prevalent is shown by the fact that the tenancy of a house in Dover Street was actually refused to me when the landlord learned that I was a professor in that institution."

Roscoe's principal work for chemistry was done while holding the professorship in Owens College, which he resigned in 1885 to enter Parliament, after a continuous service of 28 years. During this period the college was completely transformed and in 1880 a Royal Charter constituting the Victoria University was granted. Of this new university Owens College was a part, the other parts being the University College of Liverpool and the Yorkshire College of Leeds.

Roscoe undoubtedly rendered his country a great service in improving the methods of teaching chemistry. In this work he was ably seconded by Carl Schorlemmer, a German, who was thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the German universities. He held the chair of Organic Chemistry and distinguished himself by his researches and by his literary work. Roscoe had great admiration for the German methods and he did what he could to give his country the benefit of these methods.

Roscoe's contributions to chemistry are not numerous. Probably

the most important is that on vanadium. He says: "This is certainly the best piece of work I ever did and I do not know that I ever enjoyed anything of an intellectual kind more thoroughly." * * * "The subject aroused very general attention throughout the scientific world, and my view concerning the relationships of the metal was universally adopted."

His "Lessons in Elementary Chemistry" was published in 1866. Up to 1906 the number of copies sold was 211,000. Translations appeared in German, Russian, Italian, Hungarian, Polish, Swedish, Japanese, and even in one of the Indian vernaculars, Urdn. His primer also had a wide sale. The well-known "Treatise on Chemistry" by Roscoe and Schorlemmer is unquestionably the best English treatise on chemistry and certainly one of the best in any language.

Roscoe was elected to Parliament in 1885 and then resigned his professorship. Since that time his activities have not been displayed especially in the field of Chemistry. He continued, however, to exert a strong influence upon educational matters. After his retirement from Parliament he and his wife lived in what he called "the most beautiful and healthy spot in the whole of Surrey, namely, at Woodcote Lodge." It was here that his life ended suddenly and ideally.

IRA REMSEN.

HENRY CLIFTON SORBY (1826-1908)

Foreign Honorary Member in Class II, Section 1, 1892.

Henry Clifton Sorby, who, in an address sent him in 1907 by many leading petrographers, was called "The Father of Microscopical Petrography" was born in 1826 and died in 1908 in his eighty-second year. From the age of 20 his long life was devoted to scientific research, mainly in geology, petrography and mineralogy, unhampered by any professional duties and assisted by a moderate but sufficient competence. He prepared in 1849 what was probably the first transparent microscopic section of a rock, and in 1850 his first paper illustrating the new method by the study of sedimentary rocks was published. This attracted little attention, and it was eight years later that the classic memoir on which his fame as a pioneer principally